

PE1682/I

NHS Highland submission of 7 August 2019

We recognise that hidradenitis suppurativa (HS) is a relatively common condition which causes difficult symptoms for those affected including painful suppurating boils which scar and connect, leading to sinus formation. For many patients this can have a highly negative impact on quality of life. The NHS Highland dermatology service is very familiar with the condition and has experience of the various treatment strategies including biologic, surgical and medical therapies. Due to the often protracted course before effective treatment is established, patients are usually followed up long term in the dermatology clinic and managed directly by consultant dermatologists.

In a recent complex case it was useful to access second opinions from consultant dermatology colleagues in another Scottish centre and this obviated the need for the patient to travel out with the Highlands which was welcome.

The NHS Highland dermatology team believe that they are already delivering a high quality service to HS patients but would value the development of a peer support network for discussion and learning across Scotland. In addition, a regionally based specialist nurse may be able to augment the support available to HS patients on a wider geographical basis.

If you require anything further please do not hesitate to contact me.